

## PRESS RELEASE

September 27, 1989

Contact: Adele Z. Silver

**ASIAN AUTUMN 1989: MUSEUM CELEBRATES ASIAN COLLECTIONS**

Blessed with one of the finest collections of Asian art in the world, The Cleveland Museum of Art each fall mounts special exhibitions drawn from that collection. Such a seasonal celebration is in keeping with the Asian custom of marking the passage of the seasons with special ceremonies and festivals.

Asian Autumn 1989 presents two special shows, **Rimpa Painting** and **Scholar's Studio**.

**Rimpa Painting** assembles a dozen and a half of the Museum's most vivid paintings, screens, and decorative objects from 17th- and 18th-century Japan. An elaborately embroidered robe made for Noh theater performance, Ogata Korin's pair of six-fold screens depicting in color and gold leaf Chrysanthemums by a Stream, and Sakai Hoitsu's two-fold screen of Paulownias and Chrysanthemums are three of the major works in the exhibition. They represent the Museum's large and impressive holdings in this important period of Japanese art, which saw a deliberate and proud revival of ancient Japanese traditions after a long period of Chinese influence. The exhibition runs from September 19 through December 17 in the Asian Screen Room.

**Scholar's Studio** brings together a selection of objects from China, Korea, and Japan that were important to men of letters. Among the cherished tools and objects of the scholar's studio are jades, ink stones, brushpots, paintings, and calligraphy. It is the tradition of the literary man who is an amateur artist, rather than that of the professional craftsman, that provided the impetus for the most respected artistic

achievements in East Asia. The exhibition runs from September 26 through December 31 in Gallery A.

Both exhibitions note the thirtieth anniversary of the Cleveland Chapter of Ikebana International, whose members will provide Japanese flower arrangements in Gallery A at intervals throughout the run of the exhibitions. An ikebana demonstration will be held at the Museum on Monday, October 2, as a benefit for the Floral Fund; a ticket for the demonstration and a reception is \$20.

Free programs related to the Asian Autumn 1989 exhibitions will be offered at the Museum. They include: gallery talks on Japanese screens (October 4 and 8), slide-lectures on Japanese music, literature, visual arts, and garden design (October 11, 18, 25, and November 1), a family workshop on Asian painting (October 22), short films about Japanese flowers and gardens, and feature films which are all Cleveland premieres. A brochure with details of these and other programs during Asian Autumn 1989 is enclosed.

Michael Cunningham, chief curator of Asian art and curator of Japanese art at the Museum, organized both exhibitions.

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For information or photographs, please contact Adele Z. Silver, Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland OH 44106; 216/421-7340.